

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 13-37 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claim 25 for a minor cosmetic reason. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Applicants have amended the specification to include reference to the parent case as required.

2. Objections to the Drawings

In section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner approved the proposed drawing Correction, but noted that corresponding Figures had not been submitted. Applicants have submitted herewith a Request For Approval of Drawing Correction enclosing Figures with the previously approved corrections to FIG. 2. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

3. Rejections under 35 USC § 112

In section 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 13-17, 19, 20, 25-29, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 111, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the invention. As is clear from claim 13, the postage printing system claimed is capable of printing postage indicia and has utility. Regarding claim 25, the method for operating the postage printing system describes indicia and certainly postage printer systems operated in such a way have utility. The related dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons described above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

4. Double Patenting Rejections

In section 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 13-37 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,883.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and not that an obviousness rejection over those claims is not provided. Applicants reserve the right to file a terminal disclaimer should the rejection be maintained.

5. Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

In section 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 13, 14, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,168,804 to Lee, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,493,106 to Hunter or U.S. Patent No. 5,717,597 to Kara as suggested by U.S. Patent No. 5,831,554 to Storace and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,748,484 to Cannon, et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants note that the Examiner has stated that the references do not teach or suggest "determining if the postal indicia and the ad slogan may be printed in a single pass of the envelope through the print position of the postage printing system." While Applicants submit that the references are not properly combined, even if they were properly combined, there is no teaching or suggestion for the element cited above.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons stated above, claims 13, 14, 25 and 26 are patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and submits that the invention as presently claimed in claims 13-37 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

6. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

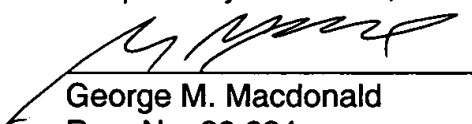
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

7. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-113.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-113.

Respectfully submitted,



George M. Macdonald
Reg. No. 39,284
Attorney for Applicants
Telephone (203) 924-3180

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive, P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000